Invitation to President of Russia and Other Republics

4665. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:
SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNA WASNIK:
SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has extended invitation to the President of Russia and other Republics of USSR to visit India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and their response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Presidents of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Turkmenistan and Tadjikistan have so far been invited to visit India. The dates of their visits are being finalised through diplomatic channels.

Closure of Steel Plants Due to Non–Supply of Imported Carbon Steel Scrap

4666. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of steel plants in the country have been closed during the current year due to non–supply of imported carbon steel scrap;

(b) if so, whether the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation has not imported adequate quantity of carbon steel scrap;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet its demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB) (a) It is not a fact that a large number of steel plants in the country have been closed during the current year due to non–supply of imported carbon steel melting scrap. However, production in the ministeei industry has been affected due to the shortage of imported steel melting scrap.

(b) and (c). Import of melting scrap through the canalising agency, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC), has reduced during the current year due to non–availability of adequate free foreign exchange.

(d) Efforts are being made to increase imports through MSTIC. The user industries can also import scrap directly through the use of Exim Scrips.

Import of Petroleum Products

4667. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS Will the Minister of be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigeneous production of petroleum products is inadequate to meet the internal demand;

(b) whether the Government propose to import petroleum products during 1991–92;

(c) if so, the details of the countries from where petroleum products are likely to be imported;

(d) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to boost the production